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Back to 1800s
 Port museum offers War of 1812 exhibit.
 Page 3

Crafty ladies
 Store a home for talented types.
 Page 13

Sense of history
 Writer moved by Anne Frank house.
 Page 12

C'mon, say sorry
 Homeowner wants apology.
 Page 16

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BUSINESS

Taste of sweet success

InPort News Staff

FORT ERIE — It only took Gaetano Letizia a year to turn a class project into a solid career.

"It's all moving really quickly," he says. "But I have a lot of faith in my cannolis. I'll bet you can't find a better cannoli in Niagara." Gaetz Cakes started as a group project in his Grade 11 entrepreneur class at Lakeshore Catholic High school. The project was so successful that by the end of the 2011 school year, Letizia bought a vending truck that July to take his cakes, cannolis and ice creams to summer festivals.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Gaetano Letizia, a Grade 12 student at Lakeshore Catholic High School, turned a class project into a career.

see SUCCESS | page 2

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■ **WEATHER:** Manager hopes for a good season

Good news for bathers: Nickel Beach opens in June

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Alaina Kane hopes predictions of a unseasonably warm and dry summer are right.

Because the hotter the summer, the more people will flock to Nickel Beach in the hopes of cooling off in the waters of Lake Erie.

Kane, the city's Nickel Beach manager, also hopes those waters are closed to swimmers too much this year due to high bacteria counts in the water.

"Nickel Beach was open for 73% of the summer last year," said Kane.

Beaches in Niagara are closed to swimming, but still open to people who want to soak in the sun, when E. coli bacteria levels in tested water reach 100 ppm per 100 mL. Niagara Region tests beaches weekly throughout the summer and last year tested several beaches daily.

Kane said when Nickel Beach is posted unsafe for swimming, patrons are told as soon as they enter the front

gates, and signs go up as well.

"We get the results usually between noon and 3 p.m.," she said, adding people can still swim in the water, but do so at their own risk.

The beach will open for weekends only starting June 2 and 3, continuing until it opens full time on June 22, a Friday. It stays open until Monday, Sept. 3. The hours of operation are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Kane said in the event of an extreme heat alert, the beach would stay open until 8 p.m.

City staff, she said, will be in grading the beach over the next couple of weeks and there's more beach this year with lower water levels, said Kane.

Beach staff, many of them returning in the third or fourth years on the beach crew, will start work preparing the beach at the end of May. With the hut used by the beach crew, to take payments from patrons, being torched on Christmas Day, Kane said staff will use the concrete bunker off to the one side of the entrance.



Niagarans enjoy the water at Port Colborne's Nickel Beach in this August 2010 file photo.

File photo

Staff will also have a steel powdered-coated picnic table, built by students in Lakeshore Catholic High School's specialist high skills major construction program, with a big umbrella for them to sit under.

For those who do head to the beach, admission is \$10 per car for the day, and pedestrians are free. Season passes can be purchased at the gates and are \$100 for residents, \$125 for non-residents, \$75 for senior residents and \$100 for senior

non-residents. Pets and alcohol are not permitted on the beach.

"There's limited parking outside the gates and no parking along the road (to the beach)," said Kane, adding staff let people know of the parking situation.

A provincial volleyball tournament, put on by the Ontario Beach Volleyball Association, will be held Saturday, July 14 and the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council will hold a movie night on the beach on Saturday, July 21 as a fundraiser for the new skatepark.

■ SUCCESS

"I'm really confident it's going to take off": Letizia

FROM PAGE 1

Now, the Grade 12 student — with the help of his father, Joe Letizia — is getting a store ready on Garrison Rd. in Fort Erie that's set to open in October.

In the meantime, his truck

is set up in front of the store ready to serve ice cream, slushies, cannolis and more.

"When we were going to the festivals we weren't really thinking about a store, but my dad put it in perspective for us," he said. "I'm really confident it's going to take off."

Last year, Letizia wanted to create a place for young people in Fort Erie to hang out. The new store offers just that. It's going to have a panini station, pizza station, bakery station, cafe section, a drive-thru and more.

"In a year or two we are hoping to have a mini-putt

course in the back, so who knows," Letizia says.

He is completing his co-op placement at the business and next year he's going to Buffalo state University to complete a business degree and play football. But he'll also manage the gelato shop, Gelateria Luca, that

the Letizias opens next week.

Right now Letizia and his mother Josephine are busy teaching 17-year-old Luca Letizia to take care of Gaetz Cakes.

"It's kind of a flip, but it's a really great family business."

Cakes and large can-

noli orders can be made in advance by going to the store or on the Gaetz Cakes Facebook page.

"It feels really great, I feel really good about myself and the business. It was a lot of work, but the work hasn't had any downfalls, yet," he says.

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portraits

■ **HISTORY:** Exhibits look back at the War of 1812 and ensuing years

Museum dressed for the 1800s

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — From the top of Sugarloaf Hill, on the Wainfleet-Port Colborne border, one can see out across Lake Erie, and across a good chunk of Niagara.

That commanding view of the area played a key role in the War of 1812, says Tami Daoust, Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum's registrar.

"There was a signal tower built on the hill ... and there was a fire beacon," Daoust says, adding no major battles were fought in the area of Sugarloaf Settlement.

Sugarloaf Settlement, which later became Port Colborne, was also important because of the Sugarloaf Trail, the main connection between surrounding settlements and used by troops and ruffians from both sides of the war.

That information is detailed, along with facts such as area Memoirists and Quakers being conscientious objectors to the war and how people lived at the time, as part of the museum's War of 1812 exhibit. That exhibit is a travelling one and has been taken around Niagara to show people what it was like during the conflict.

Daoust says it can be found in the museum and also features the life of soldiers and women during that time period.

"We have some weapons from that time and other artifacts."

If the exhibit is out somewhere else, there's a computer at the museum that has a virtual exhibit, showing what's been found across Niagara in relation to the war.

The museum also has an exhibit called Dressed to Impress, A Century of Fashion from 1812 to 1912.

That exhibit, says the museum's education programmer Michelle Mason, shows dresses and other clothing from 1812 to 1912. The dresses come from the private collection of Diane Gallingier, of Jordan Heritage Resources.

"They are very unique," says Mason.

In addition to the dresses from Gallingier, who made the Arabella Williams dress worn by volunteers in Arabella's Tea Room, there are shoes from the 1812-1912 period on display.

"Shoes are rare to see, usually they were worn until they fell apart."

Mason says there's one mannequin that has crinoline on it. Crinoline, according to a Wikipedia post, was "originally a stiff fabric with a weft of horse hair and a warp of cotton or linen thread. The fabric first appeared around 1830, but by 1850, the word had come to mean a stiffened petticoat or rigid skirt-shaped structure of steel designed to support the skirts of a woman's dress into the required shape."



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A Magic Lantern is one of the items on display at Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum's DeWitt Carter OOAD The Man Behind the School exhibit. The exhibit looks at the man who had a school named after him and was the city's first mayor.

—The Man Behind the School. With DeWitt Carter school celebrating its 100th anniversary recently, the museum takes a look at Carter and his impact on the city.

DeWitt's father and uncle towed ships with horses along the first Welland Canal in 1808.

In the 1850s, the Carters introduced steam-powered tugboats on the canal and it was that business that DeWitt took over. He ran the business in 1876 and sold his last two tugs in 1917, just before he became Port Colborne's first mayor.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
One of the dresses from the private collection of Diane Gallingier, of Jordan Heritage Resources, on display as part of Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum's exhibit called Dressed to Impress.

The exhibit shows a number of photos of the Carter family and their home, Ingleside, just a block away from the museum. A map drawn on a piece of paper shows some of the land owned by the family in the city.

The museum is open to the public daily noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

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ourview

Keep meetings open

Ontario taxpayers know from long experience it's the closed-door meetings of civic politicians they most need to worry about.

Thanks to the power the digital revolution has given ordinary citizens, maybe their focus should be on open meetings.

Strit rules that what civic councils can and can't do in private restrict those meetings to personnel and property issues. If the meetings stray into off-limits areas, or even if the politicians gather elsewhere in numbers that can form a quorum, taxpayers are on solid ground to complain.

Sometimes, it takes Ontario's top civilian watchdog to set the politicians straight. But the digital revolution is rewriting the book on political transparency and accountability, especially in open meetings.

Ontario, as it turns out, has no province-wide rules on whether citizens can record or videotape open council meetings. Some allow it, some don't. Some leave it up to their mayor.

That's a serious shortcoming when hand-held digital gadgets have made Internet broadcasters and publishers out of citizens interested in civics.

A telling case in point recently erupted in Adelaide Metcalfe, near London, Ont. There, as in much of rural Ontario, the backdrop was the hot potato of wind turbines.

A civic activist had been videotaping the rarely attended council meetings and posting them on YouTube.

But the last time she tried it, the mayor asked her to stop. When she refused, he called in the OPP. A blacked-off officer made her shut down the camera, the whole episode later uploaded to YouTube.

The woman, who wasn't disorderly, asked what law she was breaking. The police told her she was trespassing.

The mayor, despite having allowed the practice for weeks, said he stopped it because some politicians had grown frightened of speaking at all, lest they say something stupid.

For more than 20 years, the Ontario legislature has allowed its proceedings to be taped and televised. Even the justice system, while not allowing cameras in the courts, occasionally bows to digital technology by allowing the media to tweet — broadcast short messages over the Internet — from out rooms during trials.

There's a time and a place for civic politicians to be camera-shy. Open meetings aren't one of them. It's about time the rules caught up with the technology.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

FR. DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
St Ignace of Antioch Orthodox Church

"There is no such thing as a purely neutral state, for every law passed with moral implications steers society in a certain direction." So Cornelius Van Dam in his God and Government: Biblical Principles for Today" (p. 92).

Bill 13 purports to eliminate bullying in Ontario schools. Van Dam writes, "Education is no small matter and the concerns are real. It is well known that public schools are not neutral but promote secular humanism.... The push in many quarters for the inclusion of educational material approving gay marriage is another example indicating that secular schools are not morally neutral" (p. 93).

Bill 13 is not meant to push for gay marriage, but its focus is on acceptance of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) cultures.

Tolerance is surely a reasonable accommodation in a pluralistic society. But legislated acceptance of a particular sub-culture involving behavior rejected by most religions is not only biased, but undermines the freedom of conscience and religion that is protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The bill requires that boards support the establishment of gay-straight alliances as well as clubs that promote gender equity, anti-racism and respect

for people with disabilities. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's critique of Bill 13 notes that the bill "specifically sets out to isolate students into issue-specific groups."

Moreover, the Ministry of Education has gone on record that gay-straight alliance clubs cannot help homosexuality-inclined students to reform their sexuality. The assumption of the Ministry and the McGuinty Government is that homosexuality cannot be changed. That assumption has no scientific basis whatever; it is gay militant dogma spun out of desire and delusion.

The experience of thousands of men and women today is that a homosexual orientation can and has been changed for those who want that change. And St Paul implicitly states that homosexuals and other addicts have been changed by faith (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

McLean's editorial of March 19 said that "Strict anti-bullying laws could actually make matters worse." And it concluded that "any effort to reduce bullying must be grounded in reality and common sense, rather than the fanciful notion that it will go away if we just pass a new law."

In fact there are at least two laws and a ministry policy on bullying already in place in Ontario: the Progressive Discipline and School Act (2007), the Keeping our Kids Safe at

School Act ((2009)), and the Policy/Program Memorandum No. 144 on Bullying Prevention and Intervention (2007). Do we need yet another new law?

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) paper on Bill 13 says, "The remedy for bullying in the schools is not gay-straight alliance clubs, but rather proper character formation. Educators can't do it alone, and their role is necessarily limited and secondary. Parents, churches and other need to be engaged."

One might object that teaching children about sexuality and bullying from a faith-based perspective could lead to discrimination. But the EFC argues, "Canada has developed with a unique cultural and constitutional context. A Protestant dominant nation accommodated Catholic separate schools in its constitution when what are now public schools were Protestant schools. Those Protestant schools were made available for attendance by any student.

Our strong heritage as a pluralist democracy, grounded in Christian principles and practices, has created a society of acceptance — and tolerance in disagreement — that is the envy of much of the world and has made a home for people with a variety of religious beliefs and expressions."

■ readers' views

TOLERANCE OR APPROVAL: BILL 13

The point of view Tolerance, compassion best anti-bullying tools (The Tribune, Thursday, May 10) says it well only in its title.

But the article author John Chambers then goes on to disparage and misrepresent those clergy whose Christian conscience and commitment requires them to oppose Bill 13, the Ontario government's accepting schools

Like Bill 13, Chambers assumes that the main reason for bullying is homophobia. In fact the main reasons for bullying are things like a kid's size or skin colour.

Brian Lilley got that right in his piece, Bullies don't just target gays (April 3). Bullies target any kid who's a little

different.

That is why the opposition Conservatives have proposed Bill 14, to protect all kids from bullying, not just the kids who think they are homosexual.

Bill 13 is really a means of making acceptance and approval of homosexuality mandatory in schools by law.

Chambers claims that schools are never going to teach students how to be gay. But Bill 13 will require that schools teach and require approval of homosexuality.

Why else would Premier Dalton McGuinty release gay activist Dan Savage's promotional video after introducing Bill 13? Savage is notorious for his Bible-bashing.

Chambers says that schools can teach tolerance. That is true in the proper sense of tolerance as live and let live.

But in gay-speak tolerance means acceptance and approval. Using tolerance in this ideological sense is a weasel word and a deception.

Brian Lilley was right when he said that ending bullying in the schools won't happen, "as long as we're caught in an ideologically-driven sideshow over one form of bullying based on sexual orientation."

"Bullying kids because they're gay is unacceptable, so is bullying for any other reason, so let's get on with the real job — combating bullying, no matter why it's happening."

That is why Bill 14 should be passed and Bill 13 shelved.

Rev. Dr. Graham Scott
Fort Colborne

(Letters continued on A5)

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about church and state

■ LETTERS

VOLUNTEERS SHOW COMMITMENT

Thank you is not enough for all the volunteers in Port Colborne and Wainfleet who canvassed and organized the residential campaign in April for the Canadian Cancer society.

Thank you to all who sold and bought daffodil pins and to the merchants who allowed this symbol of Hope to be sold in their establishments.

The community spirit exemplified by the Meridian Credit Union for being the drop-off and pickup point for the residential kits is very much appreciated.

The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size; but, by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others

Pat Hockings,
Sharon Leeverre Niagara Unit
Canadian Cancer Society
Port Colborne

SUPPORTING A NEW HOSPITAL

The significance of Kevin Smith's recently released report cannot be overstated. In 1989, the Health Services Restructuring Commission recommended the construction of a regional cardiac catheterization lab and radiation oncology bunkers in St. Catharines.

It also recognized the vital role of the services provided by the hospitals in Niagara Falls, Welland,

Port Erie and Port Colborne and recommended their maintenance. Smith rightfully recognized the need for full medical and surgical services in "Niagara South" by recommending the construction of a new acute care hospital.

The data to support the maintenance of all surgical, medical, pediatric and obstetrical services is overwhelming — 60% of all emergency visits in Niagara take place in Niagara South; 60-70% of all gynecological and obstetrical cases are performed in south Niagara as well as more than 50% of all other surgeries.

Smith's report goes even so far as to say that the maternal child/pediatric programs will be "more central to the majority of the population" (p. 32).

The future tense used in the report is not necessary as these services are already present in Niagara Falls and Welland.

Since all the clinical services which are already present in our area constitute the backbone of the proposed new hospital, and are central to the majority of the population, they should not be relocated to the St. Catharines hospital in the "interim" period. The services are either needed and central, or they are not.

Once removed, these services will never return. In the event that the proposal for a new Niagara South hospital does not materialize, there will therefore be loss of much needed services from the area.

Furthermore, the St. Catharines hospital was built to accommodate programs from the old General and OSS sites and not designed for transfer of services from either Welland or Niagara Falls.

Whether or not the construction of a new hospital should be linked with the closure of the existing sites should

be open for further analysis and is as important as the construction of the new site itself. There may well be a role for the existing sites to provide less urgent medical services closer to home. I am supporting, in principle, the idea of building a new hospital for "south Niagara" as long as there will be no transfer of services out of Welland in

the interim period.

I would like to thank Kevin Smith and his team for recognizing the vital role of all the programs existing in the south Niagara sites and for having a progressive vision of keeping them there.

Dr. P. Kozlars,
General surgeon



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LETTER

Be creative when reporting

Finally, a way to help police end rampant disregard for the law — motorists running red lights, tailgating, treating stop signs as “optional.” It’s simple. Report the motorist to the police. Last month, a public service message on TV exclaimed it’s OK to dial 911 to report a motorist breaking the law, especially a potentially drunk driver.

This is how it works. You’re cruising down Hwy. 58 at something over the speed limit, and quickly come upon an idiot doing 75. You tail the car at a distance ranging from four to two feet, even as the car increases in speed to the limit, 80. Although you have plenty of time — no oncoming traffic — you don’t pass. Instead, you follow close enough for the driver to court your eyelashes. Eventually the lane splits, you pass, giving the idiot “the look.”

You continue to ram up to every car ahead of you on Westside Rd., just to be forced to slow down because for some reason, people just don’t seem to be speeding like you. Damned if that same idiot on the highway doesn’t keep catching up!

You decide to lose her by blowing the red light at Steele and Killaly (you’re sure the old guy on the bike didn’t mind).

Didn’t work — your plan keeps getting foiled by people driving the speed limit. Must be a full moon. Eventually, you pull into your driveway and doesn’t the idiot spot you and pull in also. What to do? Simple. Cause a child and demand the idiot get out of your driveway. She does. End of story. An hour later, a police officer arrives to “investigate” a call from the idiot about your driving, specifically tailgating and blowing the red light. No problem. You report to you were concerned with the idiot’s driving because she kept driving all over the road. You assumed she was drunk or texting. The officer advises you, next time, report the motorist to police. The officer dutifully relays your concerns to the idiot who reported you, saying since he did not witness the incident(s) he can do nothing. A “he said, she said” situation.

See how simple it is? Call the police. But don’t forget the most important part: If an officer “investigates” you because of a “call to police,” you simply have to be creative about what you witnessed and the officer’s hands are tied.

I know I’ll sleep sounder tonight.
Janice Arcore
Port Colborne



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"It works! I'll take another two bottles please!"

This coming from a customer who had tried every other natural remedy under the sun in the past few years to take away her pain. In the owner of The Healthy Cupboard couldn't believe his ears. He had finally found the perfect product to stop his customer's miseries. This is what every owner of a health food store dreams about: a natural product that receives so many outstanding testimonials on such a wide variety of health issues. I had recommended a new product called LeafSource, which we recently started carrying. We have had tremendous success with this product, and almost everyone we have recommended it to over the last few months has come back and thanked us over and over again! said Jan. Before trying LeafSource, the woman had complained about her ongoing joint pain and was at her wit's end. Although she had experienced some relief through the numerous natural remedies she had tried over the years, the pain would never fully go away. She returned to my store, in tears, less than one week after buying LeafSource. I didn't know what to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few days of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone — as if it was never there. Jan goes on, "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided." By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research and 4 clinical studies by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps



increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails, and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! Jan adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource, is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100% that alone should be enough to try this incredible product."

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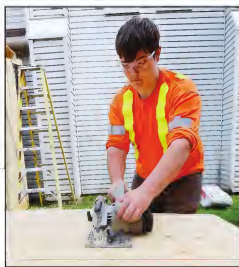
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■ SHED BUILDING



Lakeshore Catholic High School teacher Tino Nuccitelli, left, holds a piece of plywood being cut by specialist high skills major construction program student Adam Susan beside le centre Polyvalent des Aînés francophone de Port Colborne. The centre received a community grant from Niagara Community Foundation to build the shed. Lakeshore students, as part of their community involvement, constructed it last week.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos



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■ ENERGY PARK

Nyon Oil studies to be made public

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Studies on the Nyon Oil Inc. Port Colborne Energy Park should be available early next week for public perusal.

The company's various consultant studies were scheduled to be provided to the city on Tuesday, leaving time for the public to examine them and read their questions, concerns and comments.

The reports are expected to be available online at www.portcolborne.ca this week.

As the documents may be provided by Nyon only in hard copy, it may take city staff some time to convert the documents to electronic files, said Port Colborne chief administrative officer Bob Hell.

"We want to make everything as accessible as we can," he said, and keep the process "as open and transparent as council permitted."

The three-week Ontario Municipal Board hearing on the proposed energy park is scheduled for September.

The city pushed for the studies to be available well in advance to allow residents to become informed of the company's plans.

Nyon has retained consultants to do specific reviews of issues affecting development of the proposed energy park. These issues have and will continue to have impacts on the layout of the proposed development's components and their location on site.

The city has requested that Nyon host a public presentation to detail the project's evolution, including a final concept plan, on Wednesday, June 13, in council chambers.

The company will be required to send notice of the meeting to about 300 people who have signed up to be informed of advancements in the matter, and to have the meeting advertised in local newspapers, Hell said.



Hell

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■ COLUMN

A true sense of history



Michelle Presse
CANADIAN
GIRL, ITALIAN
LIVING

a small town feel as people are relaxed, happy, and always willing to give directions to the occasional lost tourist. Many people get to their desired destination by riding on a Dixie bike while enjoying the scenic views of winding canals and blooming tulips.

But there is something else that looms within this city that attracts tourists that is much deeper and darker.

At the top of my own To Do list in Amsterdam was a trip to the Annex House, also known as the House of Anne Frank.

The Diary of Anne Frank was my first formal introduction to the Holocaust.

It was a ritual for my mother to read to my older sister and I before bed, and one night, she came into the room holding a small, yet thick burgundy-coloured book. It was Anne's story.

It was then that I learned the horrors of Nazi Germany and the evils of humankind.

I am fortunate to have lived in a generation where Holocaust survivors are still alive and possess a memory vivid enough to share their experiences. But by the time I have children who are old enough to understand the Holocaust, there will be no survivors left to speak with them. I am thankful to have had this experience on more than one occasion.

This is why novels like *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl and *The Diary of Anne Frank* are an important source in educating those about the Holocaust.

The Annex House looks like an ordinary house, aside from the line of tourists that stretch outside. Inside of the house, photos are strictly forbidden, because the flash could disturb those experiencing a spiritual or moment of silence.

Visiting the house was the most powerful moment in my life, and one that I will share

with my children not through photos, but through memory.

The Diary of Anne Frank is a nonfiction account of a young girl whose childhood, and ultimately life, is robbed by Nazi Germany. Her diary documents her feelings of anger and questions towards the Second World War, and throughout the course of the diary, we see Anne transform from a disoriented girl to a mature and brave young woman.

Unfortunately, someone exposes the Frank's secret in their hiding, and they are exiled to Auschwitz, the largest concentration camp during the war located in southern Poland.

It was here that everyone in the Frank family dies, except for Anne's father, Otto, who first published the novel in 1947.

Visiting the Annex house allows its visitors to gain a true sense of Anne's story, and the



MICHELLE PRESSE for InPort News

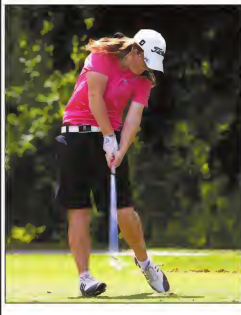
Michelle Presse said a visit to the house where Anne Frank hid during the Second World War was "the most powerful moment in my life, and one that I will share with my children not through photos, but through memory."

six million Jews who had their families, lives and voices taken away out of hatred.

The house of Anne Frank reminds its visitors of the

importance of remembrance, and that no matter how tragic some events in history were, it is essential to carry on their lessons.

One in three Canadian kids are left sitting on the sidelines



is heading off to Charleston Southern University to perfect her game."

In Canada, one in three families cannot afford to enrol their children in organized sport or recreation activities because of financial barriers (Vision Critical 2011).

Ever since she was a little girl, 17-year-old Casey, knew she wanted to play professional golf, but her family's budget was stretched with a busy household of seven young children.

"We knew that Casey had extraordinary talent, but we could not afford the expensive membership and green fees," said Casey's mom, Julie MacNeil. "The last thing we wanted was to keep her off the golf course due to affordability. She had such big dreams for herself."

Kids who are able to participate in organized sport and recreation, outside of school hours, gain many short and long term benefits including increased self-esteem, greater self-confidence, leadership skills, and better grades.

"The benefits of kids participating in sports affects their entire lives, not just their childhood years," said Dan Thompson, President, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. "Programs like Canadian Tire Jumpstart are dedicated to removing barriers so financially disadvantaged children can participate in organized sport and recreation."

Despite the financial hardships many Canadian parents are facing, there is a way to get kids into the game, no matter what barrier. By covering the cost of registration, equipment and/or transportation, Canadian Tire Jumpstart has helped 417,835 children like Casey get in the game.

"We couldn't be more proud of what our daughter has accomplished," said Casey's mom. "This year Casey is heading off to Charleston Southern University on a full golf scholarship and we have Jumpstart to thank for giving her the opportunity to continue to perfect her game."

Help kids in your community by visiting Canadian Tire, Mark's and Canadian Tire Gas+ stores and Pita Pit locations throughout the month of May and on Jumpstart Day, Saturday, May 26, 2012, to donate \$2 in exchange for a red ball, with all proceeds going to Canadian Tire Jumpstart.

Visit www.canadiantire.ca/jumpstart to learn more.

■ **THE ARTS:** Former clothing store a home for talented types

Crafty couple creates storefront showcase

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORTRAIT COLBORNE — There are many crafters in Port Colborne but not many spaces for them to showcase their talents.

For artisans Leta Virag and Betty Molenaar, having a collective location for crafters to show their wares is something important. When the former Rossmans Clothing Store became available, the women entered into a partnership to set up shop under the name Niagara Crafters.

"We wanted to help other crafters show their work," says Molenaar, a knitter by trade. "A lot of them will have beautiful, home-made crafts but no place to showcase them but at home."

Virag, who masters the art of smocking — an embroidery technique — says Niagara Crafters is a suitable location for crafters to highlight their work. Currently the store has 10 vendors featuring a variety of wares that includes dried soup, quilting, paper tote, knitting and crochet items.

Virag and Molenaar have plans to host craft workshops this fall if there's demand.

"There's a lot of talented people in the city," Molenaar says. "This is a comfortable environment for them to be in."

Niagara Crafters is located at 17 Clarence St. It is open Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

eddie.chau@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @EdChauTribune



MEAGAN-LYNN BOIS Tribune Photo

Betty Molenaar and Leta Virag, operators of Niagara Crafters on Clarence St. in Port Colborne, display the many wares they've created, along with those of several other crafters. Located in the site of the former Rossmans Clothing Store, the pair hope to have more crafters showcasing at the store in the near future.

1 in 3 Canadian families cannot afford organized sports for their kids.
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■ **DISPUTE:** Retired principal claims he was told building lot was serviced

Port property owner wants city apology

MARYANNE FIRTH
inPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Kevin Wendling believes Port Colborne owes him.

The lakeside city resident was before council night asking for compensation and a good old-fashioned

apology after he was provided with what he says is misinformation from the city regarding a property he purchased.

Wendling claims the city on more than one occasion, both before and after he purchased the property, told him services were available

to a portion of land where he hoped to build a home.

The property, which includes about 3.6 hectares of land, is on Elizabeth St. between Main St. E. and Killaly St. E., north of Ecole St. Joseph. It was purchased by Wendling and wife Roseanne in 2011.

This spring, Wendling submitted all necessary documents to obtain proper permits to build a home.

It was at that time he said he was informed no services were available to the property.

Wendling said he was told a hookup for water can be

accessed through the city's east-end bulk water filling station — recently moved to accommodate construction of the health and wellness centre — and the property can hook into the sanitary system at the nearby school at a cost of \$20,000.

"We're extremely upset,"

the former St. Therese Catholic Elementary School principal told council.

"We were led to believe there were services to the lot ... and now the issue is going to cost us approximately \$20,000."

See **APOLOGY** | page 17

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APOLOGY

'You dug a hole on my property'

FROM PAGE 16

Wendling also claimed that as construction began on the health and wellness centre and preparations were made to move the bulk water station, a large hole was mistakenly dug on his property.

At no time, he said, was an apology made.

"You dug a hole on my property, just say you're sorry," Wendling told council. "Call me old-fashioned, but I want an apology."

Wendling asked council for compensation for the fees he'll

have to bear to put services in place, and also asked that a foundation building permit be issued immediately to allow construction of the home to begin as soon as possible.

Chief administrative officer Bob Heil said there is "a lot of he said, she said"

involved in the matter.

He's working to collect information from all involved departments to determine exactly what occurred.

He said he plans to deal with the matter "expedientiously," calling it a

priority.

No councillors commented on the presentation and they referred the matter to the CAO's office.

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Kevin Wendling

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■ **DOMINIC VENTRESCA:** Thirty-six years working in Niagara

Retirement looms for man who oversaw seniors care

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — The dream won't end even when Dominic Ventresca leaves behind a lifetime of work in Niagara Region's

seniors homes.

After 36 years at the region, seniors services director Ventresca is set to retire at the end of the month. But he said he didn't see an end to his youthful

dream of helping others, saying he's been asked about sitting on a couple committees on seniors issues even after he turns over his seat at regional headquarters. That dream — and a love of

gerontology — led the Welland native back home 36 years ago as of March 1, when he first arrived as a 24-year-old administrator at L'Angeven seniors residence.

"To me, being able to work

long-term in the gerontology field was my dream, and I was able to live my dream by starting off at the region," he said.

See **VENTRESCA** | A19



Dominic Ventresca

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■ VENTRESCA

The job posed challenges for Ventresca from Day 1

FROM PAGE 18

Ventresca, who crossed the 36-year threshold March 1, will wrap up May 31.

He's been director of seniors

services since 1996, overseeing the region's eight long-term care homes. That duty, he said, will be taken up by Henriette Konig, former administrator of a long-

term care home in Muskoka.

It's a job that posed challenges for Ventresca from Day 1.

He said one of his first tasks after he got the director's job was

to grapple with massive service cuts and a demand to slash the department's spending by \$2 million—without losing services.

"To say that it was challenging

would be an understatement," he said, "but it tested my commitment to the cause that ... I'd devoted my career to."

In the end, he said, a plan

came together that slashed spending equivalent to 52 full-time positions, but did the job.

See **JOB** | page 20

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■ JOB

A highlight was \$48-million redevelopment of seniors homes

FROM PAGE 19

Today, he said, the region's benchmarking ranks its senior service system among the province's most cost-effective.

Ventresca pointed to the 2003 opening of the T. Roy Adams Regional Centre for dementia care in St. Catharines as one of the most rewarding moments of

his time.

"That was a real reach for us," he said, "and we did it based on family feedback and a need for improvements at that level of care."

Before, he said, the region had been running on a crazy-quilt system of dementia care. He said it often left seniors with dementia either sedated in long-term care homes or in

psychiatric wards.

Also among the high points, he said, was a \$48-million redevelopment of three seniors homes deemed below standard by the province in the late 1990s.

Over time, he said, caring for seniors had changed.

Ventresca said 17.4% of Niagarans are senior citizens, compared to 13% provincially,

but more and more elders are staying active into their 60s and 70s.

On the flip side, though, they're seeking care later in life, in their 80s and 90s, when they're typically in poorer health.

For Ventresca's part, he said learning how to care for others as they age has given him a unique insight into his own life.

He said he's keenly aware of the changes that come with growing old, including the loss of physical prowess, mental sharpness and loved ones, and he's aware of the life experience and learning that come with aging.

"Even how retirement affects people," he said. "I studied that back in my 20s, and now I'm coming to that stage myself."

That's led him to develop interests of the job, too, though he said he'll likely join a couple committees on seniors issues.

In the meantime, he said he plans to "catch up a bit on life" and spend some time with his two adult sons, new grandson and mother.

"You hear the expression that you live and learn," he said. "Well, I learned and lived."



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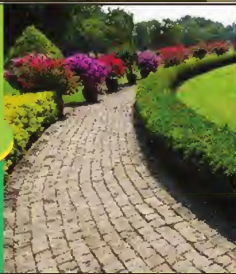


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11:00pm
Saturday, May 26
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\$365
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